

The Riddle GUESSER.

By BENJAMIN NICHOLSON.

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"Don't tell me you can't make him propose!" snorted Mr. Poole, turning a scowling face on one of his daughters, who was primping before a mirror. "You don't go at it right. Get him in a corner and then look at him just as much as to say, 'What are your intentions?'"

"But how are you going to get him in a corner?"

"There are hundreds of ways. Ask him what he built his new house for and keep on asking questions about it till you get him in a place he can't squirm out of. I know men are dull and mighty provoking at times, but you've got to be patient and help them along."

"Since you think it is so terribly easy to corner him I'll just give you a chance to do it," snapped Miss Leah. "I see him coming through the gate now. I'm going to run upstairs. Tell him I haven't finished dressing."

"Howdy, Mr. King? Come right in. Take off your overcoat, draw a chair up to the fire and make yourself comfortable. Leah will be down shortly. She's not quite through frizzling her hair. Right cold today, isn't it? How's the folks?"

"About as well as common. How're you all?"

"We're all able to be up and stirring around. Ma's complaining, as usual, but not much the matter with her, I guess. I see you got the last coat of paint on your new house. Must have been pretty cold up on the top of that ladder, wasn't it? Says I to Leah the other day when I got home, 'If Mr. King doesn't catch his death of cold it'll be a wonder to me!'"

"Would you believe it? She got that badly scared about you that she had her ma make up a batch of her celebrated cold cure and then asked me



"WILL YOU GIVE HER TO ME FOR MY WIFE?" to take it over to you. But I told her that most folks had their own cold cure and wouldn't think of taking anybody else's."

"But I didn't get a cold."

"Leah will be mighty glad to hear that. 'Pa,' says she the very last thing before she went upstairs, 'If Mr. King's got a cold boller up and tell me, because I'm so worried about him.'"

"But I didn't get a cold."

"That's too bad—er—I mean, of course, it's too bad that I went and scared Leah so. But we were talking about your new house. What was your terrible rush to get that last coat of paint on? Something unusual going to happen?"

"Not that I know of. I just wanted to get through. And now at last I'm beginning to feel as if I were ready to live."

"Don't you need something besides a house? See if you can't think of something you're still short of."

"I can't say that I can."

"Something that stays in the house."

"Well, I got my ma to make out a list of the things she thought I'd need, and I turned it over to Burckey and had him fill it out."

"Maybe the thing I have in mind is not to be had at Burckey's."

"I must say if it can't be bought at Burckey's it must be something unusual. But don't tell me what it is. I'm a terrible fellow for guessing riddles and solving puzzles and such like. I never heard tell of a riddle that I couldn't guess."

"Well, a lot of men have got gray trying to solve this one. But dive in; maybe you can. I don't want to discourage you."

"Is it found in most houses?"

"No, not all. Old bachelors seem to think that they can get along without

them. Whenever they do have one around it's an ugly old thing. I almost said secondhand, but caught myself just in time."

"I reckon you have one?"

"Oh, yes, four. I got one before I started housekeeping."

"Now, that's interesting! Which room do you keep it in?"

"For twenty years I tried to keep it in the kitchen, but as I didn't seem to make any headway I gave up trying. I'm just as liable to find mine in the parlor as anywhere else."

"Is it a bootjack? I don't think Burckey keeps bootjacks."

"Well, if a bootjack is supposed to make life easier for a man, then it's like one in that respect, but it's not a

bootjack nor a cook stove, though it is supposed to stand around a stove a good deal and is like one in that it gets pretty warm at times."

"I reckon it couldn't be a coffeepot, for Burckey keeps them. I believe you said it made life easier for a man?"

"No, I didn't. I said it was supposed to. But the thing I said that was most to the point was that I got one before I started housekeeping and that now I've got four. Do you know, I've been expecting for some time that you were going to ask me if I wouldn't give you one so that you could begin housekeeping right."

"That's another good point. It's something that you'd give away, so I reckon it can't be worth so very much. I'll guess it yet! Now, you see if I don't!"

"Just to encourage you a little, I don't mind saying that, while I wouldn't sell it for any money, I'll give it to you just as soon as ever you ask me for it."

"Is it a stove lifter?"

Mr. Poole pushed a good sized handful of whiskers into his mouth and began to chew them angrily.

"Now, let me put all these points together," said Mr. King. "It's something that can't be bought at Burckey's, yet it's found in most every house. It's supposed to make life easier for a man and is like a bootjack in this respect. You tried for twenty years to keep yours in the kitchen, but couldn't do it, though it does stand around the stove a heap. It's something you won't sell, yet you'll give it to me just as quick as ever I ask you for it, and you've been thinking I was going to ask you for it. Now, if that's not a corker I'm no judge of riddles!"

"And you don't know what it is?" growled Mr. Poole.

"Give me another minute or two. I've got it! It's a coal scuttle!"

"Not by a darned sight! A wife, you blankety blank fool!"

"Oh, oh, and you'll give me Miss Leah? Will you, Mr. Poole? Will you give her to me for my wife?"

IT'S ALWAYS BAD.

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A bad back is always bad. Bad at night when bedtime comes, Just as bad in the morning. Ever try Doan's Kidney Pills for it? Know they cure backache—cure every kidney ill?

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Lane's Family Medicine is a tonic-laxative. It does not depress or weaken, but imparts a feeling of buoyancy and strength that is delightful. At all druggists 25c.

The Daily Market Report

PORTLAND, July 17—Halibut dropped to 5 cents a pound in the local fish market today. Other fish prices were unchanged. Salmon is plentiful, especially steelheads, of which the present run in the Columbia river is heavy. Schrimp is very scarce and there are few crabs now in the market. The latter sell at \$1.50 to \$1.75 a dozen. Frozen lobsters are available at 20 cents a pound.

Supplies were of good size in all fruit lines today, especially in cherries, peaches and loganberries, and there were no important changes from the prices that prevailed yesterday. Cantaloupes and watermelons were active and the trade in small fruits generally was satisfactory.

There were no changes in the egg market, candled stock moving at 24 to 25 cents.

Flour, Grain and Feed.

Wheat—Track prices: Club, 85c; red Russian, 83c; bluesteam, 87c; Valley 85c.

Barley—Feed, \$24.50; rolled, \$25.50; @26.50; brewing, \$26.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$26.50; gray, \$26.00.

Flour—Patents, \$4.85; straights, \$4.05 @4.55; exports, \$3.70; Valley \$4.45; 1-4 sack graham, \$4.40; whole wheat, \$4.65; rye, \$5.50.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$26.00; middlings, \$30.50; shorts, country, \$28.50; shorts, city, \$28; chop, \$27.50.

Hay—Timothy: Willamette Valley, fancy, \$15.00; do, ordinary, \$12; Eastern Oregon, \$17.50; mixed, \$15; alfalfa, \$12.

Butter, Eggs and Poultry.

Butter—Extras, 25c; fancy, 24c; choice, 20c; store, 16c.

Cheese—Full cream twins, 14c; full cream triplets, 14c; Young America, 15c; cream brick, 20c; Swiss block, 18c; Limburger, 20c.

Poultry—Mixed chickens, 12½@13c; fancy hens, 13c; roosters, old, 9@10; fliers, 20c; broilers, 18@19c; dressed, 1c per pound higher; ducks, 12@14c; geese, old, 8@9c; turkeys, alive, 18c; do, dressed, 19@20c.

Fruits and Vegetables.

Potatoes—Select old Oregon, 60@65c per 100; new Oregon, \$1.25 @1.40; new California, \$1.30 per 100.

Fresh Fruits—Oranges, \$3.25@4.00; lemons, \$3.50@4.75; strawberries, 75c@1.25 per crate; raspberries, \$1@1.25 per crate; cherries, 4@7c pound; apricots, \$1.25@1.75 per crate; gooseberries, 5c lb; peaches, 60@90c crate; plums, 50@75c crate; watermelons, 2c pound; loganberries, 75c@1.00 crate.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.25 sack; beets, \$1.75; parsnips, \$1.25; cabbage, \$1.50@2.00; cauliflower, \$2.50, crate; head lettuce, 20@25c; cucumbers, \$1.25 @1.50; celery, 85 cents; artichokes, 60c doz.; asparagus, 65c@1.25; beans, 8c; eggplant, 20c pound; tomatoes, \$1.25@1.75 crate; cantaloupe, \$2@2.25 per crate.

Onions—Bermudas, 2c lb; California red, \$1.40@1.50; garlic, 12@15c.

Apples—Select, \$3.00 box; fancy, \$2.00; choice, \$2.00; California new, \$1.25.

Meats and Provisions.

Dressed Meats—Hogs, fcy, 7½@8c; ordinary, 6½c; large 6c; veal, extra 8c, ordinary 6@7c, heavy 5c; mutton, fcy, 8@9c.

Lard—Kettle lard 10s, 13½c; do 5s, 13½c; do 50-lb. tins, 13½c; steam rendered 10s, 12½c; do 5s, 12½c; compound 10s, 9½c.

Hams—10-12 lbs., 16½c; 14-16 lbs., 16c; 18-20 lbs., 16c.

Bacon—Breakfast, 16@23c; picnics, 11c; cottage roll, 12c; regular short clears, smoked, 12½c; do unsmoked, 11½c; Un. B., 10@13c lb; smoked, 10@13c; unsmoked, 12c; clear bellies, unsmoked, 13½c; smoked, 14½c; shoulders, 12c.

JOBBER'S QUOTATIONS.

Sugar, Coffee, Etc.

D. G., \$6.25; beet, \$6.95; Golden C., \$5.65; extra C., 5.75; powdered, \$6.35; fruit or berry sugar, \$6.25; boxes, 55c. Sugar (sack basis)—D. G., \$6.25; cwt. advance over sack basis less 1c if paid for in 15 days.

Coffee—Mocha, 24@28c; Java, fancy, 25@28c; Java, good, 20@24c; Java, ordinary, 17@20c; Costa Rica, fancy, 18@20c; Costa Rica, good, 16 @18c; Arbuckle, \$16.50 cwt.; Lion, \$15.75 cwt.; Colombia coffee, 14c lb.; Salvador, 11½@14½c.

Rice—Imperial Japan, No. 1, \$6.35; Southern Japan, \$5.75@6.00; broken, 4½c; head, fancy, \$7@7.75.

Salt—Bales of 75-2s, bale, \$2.25; bales of 60-3s, bale, \$2.25; bales of 40-4s, bale, \$2.25; bales of 15-10s, bale, \$2.25; bags, 50s, 4ne, ton, \$15; bags, 50c; genuine Liverpool ton, \$17; bags, 50s, 4-ground, \$13.50; 100s, ton, \$13; R. S. V., 20 5-lb cartons, \$2.25; R. S. V. P., 3-lb cartons, \$1.75; Liverpool, lump, per ton, \$20.

Raisins—Loose muscatels, 3-crown, 6 cents; 4-crown, 7½@8c; bleached, seedless Sultanias, 9½c@12c; unbleached seedless Sultanias, 6½ cents; London layers, 3-crown, whole boxes

of 20 pounds, \$2.00; 2-crown, \$1.75. Nuts—Walnuts, 15@17c pound; filberts, 16; Brazils, 16c; pecans, 14 @20c; hickory, 10c; Virginia peanuts, 6½c; peanuts, 6@8c; chestnuts, Italian 10c, Ohio 25c; cocoanuts, dozen, 90c@1.10; pine nuts, 10@12c pound.

Dried Fruits—Apples, 8½c per lb; peaches, 10@12c; pears, 11½@14c; Italian prunes, 50@6c; California figs, white, in sacks, 7½c per pound; black, 6@7c; bricks, 75c@2.25 per box; Smyrna, 16@17½c per pound; dates, Persian, 6½@7c pound.

Hops, Wool, Hides, Etc. Hops—1907 crop, 5@6c pound. Wool—alley, 14@14½c lb; coarse, 12@13c; Eastern Oregon, 8@16c, as to shrinkage.

Mohair—Choice, 18@19c pound. Cascara Sagrada (chittim bark)—3½@4½c per pound. Oregon Grape-root—Per 100 pounds \$3@5.

Hides—Dry hides, No. 1, 14c lb; dry kip, No. 1, 13c lb; dry salted, one-third less; dry calf, 15c lb; salted steers, 7@8c lb; salted cows, 6c lb; stags and bulls, 4c lb; kip, 6c lb; calf, 10@11c lb; green stock, 1c less; sheepskins; shearlings, 10@25c; short wool, 30@40c; medium and long wool, according to quality, 50@90c; dry horses, 50c@1.50; dry colts, 25c; angora, 80c@1; goat, common, 10@20c.

Oysters, Clams and Fish.

Oysters—Shoalwater Bay, per gallon, \$2.25; per sack, \$4.50; Toke Point, \$1.60 per 100; Olympias (120 lbs.), \$6; Olympias, per gallon, \$2.25. Fish—Halibut, 5c lb; black cod, 8c; black bass, 20c; striped bass, 18c; herring, 5½c; flounders, 6c; catfish, 11c; shrimp, 12c; perch, 7c; sturgeon, 12c; sea trout, 15c; tom cod, 10c; salmon, fresh, 8@9c; smelt, 7c; shad, 3½@4c.

Canned Salmon—Columbia River, 1 pound tins, \$2.10; 2-lb. tins, \$3.00; fancy, 1-lb. flats, \$2.25; 1-lb. flats, \$1.40; fancy, 1-lb. ovals, \$2.75; Alaska tins, pink, 95c; red, \$1.40; nominal, 2s, tins, \$2.10.

Clams—Little neck, per box, \$2.50; razor clams, \$2 per box.

Oils, Lead, Etc.

Benzine—V. M. and P. and Union Naphtha, cases, 19½c; iron barre's, 12½c.

Coal Oil—Union and pearl and astral oil, cases, 18c per gallon; water white, iron barrels, 10½c; eocene and extra star, cases, 21c; headlight oil, cases, 19½c; iron barrels, 12½c; elaine, cases, 28c.

Lead—Strictly pure white lead, in ton lots, 7½c; 500-lb. lots, 8c less; less than 500c lbs., 8½c; red lead and litharge, 1c higher than white.

Linseed Oil—Raw, 5-barrel lots, 50c; 1-barrel lots, 51c; in case, 57c; boiled, 5-barrel lots, 52c; 1-barrel lots, 53c; in cases, 59c.

Gasoline—Union and Red Crown, bbls., 15½c; cases, 22½c. Motor, bbls., 15½c; cases, 22½c. 86 degrees, bbls., 30c; cases, 37½c. Engine Distillate, bbls., 9c; cases, 16c.

The Best—In cases, 63c; in wood barrels, 61½c; in iron barrels, 59½c; in 10-case lots, 62c.

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